

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A communication device for carrying out communications with other communication devices by using a prescribed control protocol on a network, comprising:

a first tentative address determination unit configured to determine a first tentative address which is a candidate for one of addresses managed by the prescribed control protocol;

a packet transmission unit configured to transmit an address initialization packet containing the first tentative address to the network, in order to check presence/absence of another communication device which is using an address identical to the first tentative address;

a confirmation packet transmission unit configured to transmit an address confirmation packet containing the first tentative address to the network when receiving, from another communication device within a first prescribed period of time since transmitting the address initialization packet, none of a response packet indicating that an address identical to the first tentative address is currently used, an address initialization packet containing the first tentative address and an address confirmation packet indicating that the first tentative address is determined as an address of the another communication device; and

an address determination unit configured to ~~determine~~ set the first tentative address as an address of the communication device, when receiving, within a second prescribed period of time since transmitting the address initialization packet, none of a response packet indicating that an address identical to the first tentative address is currently used, an address initialization packet containing the first tentative address and an address confirmation packet indicating that the first tentative address is determined as an address of the another communication device,

wherein, when receiving, from another communication device within the first prescribed period of time since transmitting the address initialization packet, one of a response packet indicating that an address identical to the first tentative address is currently used, an address initialization packet containing the first tentative address and an address confirmation packet indicating that the first tentative address is determined as an address of the another communication device, the confirmation packet transmission unit transmits an address confirmation packet containing a second tentative address which is different from the first tentative address to the network, and the use of the first tentative address is prohibited for a period of time no shorter than the first prescribed period of time. ~~no response packet from another communication device indicating that an address identical to the tentative address is currently used is received within a first prescribed period of time since transmitting the address initialization packet; and~~

~~a transmission prohibition unit configured to prohibit a transmission of the address initialization packet within a second prescribed period of time since receiving the address initialization packet transmitted from another communication device.~~

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The communication device of claim 1, wherein the first tentative address determination unit uses a previously used address as the tentative address if the previously used address is maintained, or uses a part of a hardware address of the communication device as the tentative address otherwise.

Claim 3 (Canceled).

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The communication device of claim ~~[[3]]~~1, ~~wherein the packet transmission unit also transmits~~ further comprising a response packet transmission

unit configured to transmit a response packet for the address initialization packet of the address confirmation packet transmitted from another communication device, after a period of time correlated to an address value of the communication device has elapsed since receiving the address initialization packet of the address confirmation packet from another communication device.

Claim 5 (Original): The communication device of claim 4, wherein the packet transmission unit uses the period of time correlated to the address value of the communication device which is obtained by multiplying the address value of the communication device with a prescribed period of time.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The communication device of claim [[3]]1, wherein the packet transmission unit transmits at least one of the address initialization packet and the address confirmation packet to the network for a plurality of times.

Claim 7 (Original): The communication device of claim 1, wherein the communication device uses the prescribed control protocol which is an Echonet protocol.

Claims 8-18 (Canceled).

Claim 19 (New): The communication device of claim 1, wherein the address determination unit determines the second tentative address as an address of the communication device, when receiving from another communication device none of a response packet indicating that an address identical to the second tentative address is currently used, an address initialization packet containing the second tentative address and an

address confirmation packet indicating that the second tentative address is determined as an address of the another communication device within the second prescribed period of time since the confirmation packet transmission unit transmits the address confirmation packet containing the second tentative address to the network.

Claim 20 (New): A communication method for enabling a plurality of communication devices to carry out communications with each other by using a prescribed control protocol on a network, comprising:

determining a first tentative address which is a candidate for one of addresses managed by the prescribed control protocol;

transmitting an address initialization packet containing the first tentative address to the network, in order to check presence/absence of another communication device which is using an address identical to the first tentative address;

transmitting an address confirmation packet containing the first tentative address to the network when receiving, from another communication device within a first prescribed period of time since transmitting the address initialization packet, none of a response packet indicating that an address identical to the first tentative address is currently used, an address initialization packet containing the first tentative address and an address confirmation packet indicating that the first tentative address is determined as an address of the another communication device; and

determining the first tentative address as an address of the communication device, when receiving, within a second prescribed period of time since transmitting the address initialization packet, none of a response packet indicating that an address identical to the first tentative address is currently used, an address initialization packet containing the first

tentative address and an address confirmation packet indicating that the first tentative address is determined as an address of the another communication device,

wherein, when receiving, from another communication device within the first prescribed period of time since transmitting the address initialization packet, one of a response packet indicating that an address identical to the first tentative address is currently used, an address initialization packet containing the first tentative address and an address confirmation packet indicating that the first tentative address is determined as an address of the another communication device, an address confirmation packet containing a second tentative address which is different from the first tentative address to the network is transmitted, and the use of the first tentative address is prohibited for a period of time no shorter than the first prescribed period of time.

Claim 21 (New): The communication method of claim 20, wherein the communication device uses the prescribed control protocol which is an Echonet protocol.

Claim 22 (New): A communication device for carrying out communications with other communication devices by using a prescribed control protocol on a network comprising:

a server request transmission unit configured to transmit an address server detection request packet for requesting to become an address server which has a right to set addresses belonging to other devices managed by the prescribed control protocol;

a server determination unit configured to determine the communication device as the address server, when no response packet from another communication device indicating that it is the address server is received within a first prescribed period of time since transmitting the address server detection request packet; and

a control unit configured to control the server request transmission unit in order that, when an address server detection request packet is received from another communication device, the server request transmission unit transmits an address server detection request packet again after a second prescribed period of time which is longer than the first prescribed period of time.

Claim 23 (New): The communication device of claim 22, wherein the packet transmission unit transmits the address server detection request packet to the network for a plurality of times.

Claim 24 (New): A communication method for enabling a plurality of communication devices to carry out communications with each other by using a prescribed control protocol on a network, comprising:

transmitting an address server detection request packet for requesting to become an address server which has a right to determine addresses managed by the prescribed control protocol;

determining as the address server the communication device that transmits the address server detection request packet, when no response packet from another communication device indicating that it is the address server is received within a first prescribed period of time since transmitting the address server detection request packet; and

controlling the communication device to transmit an address server detection request packet again after a second prescribed period of time which is longer than the first prescribed period of time, when an address server detection request packet is received from another communication device.

Claim 25 (New): The communication device of claim 24, wherein the communication device uses the prescribed control protocol which is an Echonet protocol.

Claim 26 (New): A communication device for carrying out communications with other communication devices by using a prescribed control protocol on a network, comprising:

- a first tentative address determination unit configured to determine a first tentative address which is a candidate for one of addresses managed by the prescribed control protocol;

- a packet transmission unit configured to transmit an address initialization packet containing the first tentative address to the network, in order to check presence/absence of an additional communication device which is using an address identical to the first tentative address and requesting the additional communication device to return information about the addresses being used by any other communication devices;

- a confirmation packet transmission unit configured to transmit an address confirmation packet containing the first tentative address to the network when receiving, from any other communication device within a first prescribed period of time since transmitting the address initialization packet, none of a response packet indicating that an address identical to the first tentative address is currently used, an address initialization packet containing the first tentative address and an address confirmation packet indicating that the first tentative address is set as an address of the some other communication device; and

- an address determination unit configured to set the first tentative address as an address of the communication device, when receiving, within a second prescribed period of time since transmitting the address initialization packet, none of a response packet indicating that an address identical to the first tentative address is currently used, an address initialization

packet containing the first tentative address and an address confirmation packet indicating that the first tentative address is determined as an address of the some other communication device,

wherein, when receiving, from any other communication device within the first prescribed period of time since transmitting the address initialization packet, one of a response packet indicating that an address identical to the first tentative address is currently used, an address initialization packet containing the first tentative address and an address confirmation packet indicating that the first tentative address is set as an address of some other communication device, the confirmation packet transmission unit transmits an address confirmation packet containing a second tentative address which is different from the first tentative address to the network, and the use of the first tentative address is prohibited for a period of time no shorter than the first prescribed period of time.

Claim 27 (New): The communication device of claim 26, wherein the tentative address determination unit uses a previously used address as the tentative address if the previously used address is maintained, or uses a part of a hardware address of the communication device as the tentative address otherwise.

Claim 28 (New) The communication device of claim 26, wherein the second prescribed period of time is longer than the first prescribed period of time.

Claim 29 (New): The communication device of claim 26, wherein the packet transmission unit transmits at least one of the address initialization packet and the address confirmation packet to the network for a plurality of times.

Claim 30 (New): The communication device of claim 26, wherein the communication device uses the prescribed control protocol which is an Echonet protocol.